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Counsel for Debtor

In Re:

:UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

:FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

:CHAPTER 11

RIDGEWOOD CORP.,

: Case No.: 10-

Debtor.

: Hon. Rosemary Gambardella

: Hearing Date:

VERIFIED APPLICATION IN SUPPORT OF ENTRY OF INTERIM ORDER REGARDING DEBTOR IN POSSESSION FINANCING AND FOR NUNC PRO TUNC USE OF CASH COLLATERAL AND FOR RELATED RELIEF

TO: THE HONORABLE ROSEMARY GAMBARDELLA UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Ridgewood Corp. ("Ridgewood" or the "Debtor") as Debtor and Debtor in Possession in the above captioned matter, by and through counsel, hereby moves before this Court on an emergent basis pursuant to Sections 105, 361, 362, 363, 364 (c)(1), 364 (c)(2), 364 (c)(3) and 364 (d), of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S. C. § § 101, et seq. (as amended, the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2002, 4001 (c) and 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") (hereinafter referred to as the "Motion", seeking entry of an Order authorizing the Debtor: 1

(a) to establish a revolving credit and financing arrangement with Sovereign Bank (Sovereign"), as contemplated by that certain Modification Agreement dated as of July 2010 (the "DIP Revolving Loan Agreement"), substantially in the form attached

¹ Each initially capitalized term used and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the DIP Revolving Loan Agreement or the Motion, as applicable.

to this Motion as **Exhibit A** between the Debtor and Sovereign to obtain loans and other extensions of credit (the "DIP Facility"), and to execute any and all ancillary documents entered into in connection with the DIP Revolving Loan Agreement (together with the DIP Revolving Loan Agreement, the "DIP Loan Documents") including the Permitted Overbase up to a maximum amount of \$1.3 million in the sole and absolute discretion of Sovereign conditioned, however, on the aggregate outstanding balance of the Advances, including both pre-petition revolving obligations and post-petition revolving obligations not exceeding the lesser of (i) the Borrowing Base (which includes the Permitted Overbase Amount up to a maximum of \$1.1 million) or (ii) the Maximum Line Amount.

- (b) to grant Sovereign, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 364, liens on and security interests in all of the Debtor's currently owned and after-acquired real and personal property (the "Collateral") as more fully described in the DIP Loan Documents, to secure the Debtor's obligations under the DIP Facility and the DIP Loan Documents, subject to the limitations described therein and herein;
- (c) with respect to the property, assets and estate of the Debtor, to grant Sovereign an administrative super-priority claim in payment with respect to the obligations under the DIP Loan Documents over any and all administrative expenses of the kinds specified in Bankruptcy Code Sections 503 (b), 507(b) and 546 (c), subject to the limitations therein and herein.

In so doing, the Debtor states as follows:

- 1. On June 18, 2010, Petitioning Creditors filed an Involuntary Petition under Chapter 7 against Ridgewood.
- 2. On July 1, 2010, Ridgewood filed a voluntary petition for relief with this Court under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (the "Chapter 11 Case"). The Debtor is continuing in possession of its property, and operating and managing its business, as a debtor-in-possession, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Sections 1107 and 1108. No trustee or examiner has been requested or appointed in the Chapter 11 case.
- 3. This Court has jurisdiction over the Chapter 11 Case and the Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 (b) and 1334. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. The Motion presents a core proceeding as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 157 (b) (2).

4. The Debtor is engaged in the business of distributing plumbing, heating and air conditioning products, operating out of 13 locations in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and employs approximately 70 employees.

The Pre-Petition Debt

- 5. On or about October 10, 2003, Ridgewood entered into a Loan and Security Agreement with Sovereign pursuant to which Sovereign extended to Ridgewood a revolving line of credit up to a maximum amount of \$20 million and a non-revolving equipment line of credit up to a maximum amount of \$500,000. The loans were evidenced by a Line Note and an Equipment Line Note, each dated October 10, 2003.
- 6. Pursuant to the Loan and Security Agreement, as security for the prompt payment and performance of all Bank Indebtedness (as defined in the Loan and Security Agreement), Ridgewood granted Sovereign a security interest in all of its present and future assets and all products and proceeds thereof, wherever located.
- 7. Sovereign perfected its security interest by filing a Uniform Commercial Code Financing Statement ("UCC-1") on September 18, 2003, Filing Number 21783593 and a Continuation Statement on May 8, 2008.
- 8. On July 31, 2006, Sovereign and Ridgewood entered into a Second Allonge to the \$500,000 Equipment Line Note reflecting Equipment Line Advances in the aggregate amount of \$240,000, as well as the First Amendment and Modification to Loan and Security Agreement (the First Amendment") pursuant to which Sovereign granted Ridgewood an additional term loan in the maximum principal amount of \$880,000 (the "Term Loan").

- 9. As security for the full and timely payment and performance of all Bank Indebtedness (as defined in the Loan and Security Agreement) Ridgewood granted Sovereign a first priority mortgage in real property owned by Ridgewood commonly known as 44 Franklin Street, Tenafly, New Jersey.
- 10. Sovereign perfected its security interest in the real property by filing the Mortgage with the Bergen County Clerk on October 7, 2006 in Mortgage Book 16348, Page 383 through 401 and also filed, on December 1, 2006, with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, UCC Section, an all asset filing as well as a fixture filing on 44 Franklin Street, Tenafly, New Jersey, Document Number 2391887.
- 11. The Mortgage was modified by a certain Mortgage Modification Agreement dated April 9, 2009, which modification was recorded with the Bergen County Clerk on May 6, 2009.
- 12. Additional Amendments and Modifications to the Loan and Security Agreement were executed on March 19, 2007 (the "Second Amendment"), August 16, 2007 (the "Third Amendment"), July 22, 2008 (the "Fourth Amendment"), April 9, 2009 (the "Fifth Amendment"), July 31, 2009 (The Sixth Amendment") and October 13, 2009 (the Seventh Amendment") which Seventh Amendment provides that upon an Event of Default of the Line, the Term Loan shall be due and payable in full.
- 13. Pursuant to the pre-petition Loan Documents, Sovereign holds validly perfected liens and security interest in all of Ridgewood's present and future assets and all products and proceeds thereof, wherever located (including, without limitation, accounts, account receivable, cash, cash equivalents, inventory, intangibles, contract proceeds, and the like ("Cash Collateral"); as well as a mortgage on Ridgewood's real property at 44 Market Street, Tenafly, New Jersey and an Assignment of Rents and Leases.

Debtor's Emergent Need for Financing

- 14. By letter dated March 8, 2010, Sovereign notified Ridgewood of the occurrence of Events of Default (as defined in the Loan Documents). On April 15, 2010 Sovereign served Ridgewood with a Notice of Partial Exercise of Remedy and Reservation of Rights. Ridgewood has been and remains in default under the Loan Documents, and is not in compliance with the lending limits and the borrowing base formulas established therein.
- 15. On May 20, 2010, Sovereign served notice, in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, of its intention to exercise its rights under the pre-petition Loan Documents and to sell or otherwise dispose of that portion of the collateral constituting all or part of Ridgewood's general intangibles, inventory and equipment at a private sale after June 3, 2010.
- 16. On June 15, 2010, Ridgewood executed three separate Secured Party Sale and Disposition Agreements, pursuant to which Ridgewood acknowledged its material default of its obligations to Sovereign, its inability to cure such defaults, and its agreement to surrender the collateral to Sovereign. In accordance with the Disposition Agreements, a closing was scheduled for June 25, 2010.
- 17. In response to the involuntary Chapter 7 Petition, and during a joint hearing on the petitioning creditors' motion to appoint an interim trustee and Sovereign's motion for relief from the automatic stay to close the secured party sale and disposition agreements, Ridgewood elected to file a voluntary Chapter 11 petition and to conduct a section 363 sale of its assets.
- 18. The Debtor could not and cannot survive solely on Cash Collateral. The Debtor does not have sufficient available sources of working capital and financing to carry on the operation of its business without DIP Financing. Without the DIP Facility, the Debtor's operations will immediately cease and the jobs of its employees will be lost. The DIP Financing is essential for the

Debtor to pay employees, maintain business relationships and continue operations pending the § 363 sale hearing.

- 19. It is a term and condition of the DIP Financing being offered to the Debtor that the Debtor use proceeds of that facility to satisfy obligations that are critical to ongoing operations of the Debtor in accordance with the budget annexed to the Motion as **Exhibit B**.
- 20. It is also a condition to the extension of DIP Financing that Sovereign receive the guaranty, of up to \$150,000 of Ridgewood's obligation and liabilities to Sovereign from affiliates of Ridgewood (the "Affiliate Guaranty"). The Affiliate Guaranty is to be secured by a mortgage(s) on real property owned by such affiliate.
- 21. Given the Debtor's current financial condition, the Debtor is unable to sustain its operations solely with the use of Cash Collateral, and is unable to obtain unsecured credit allowable solely under Bankruptcy Section 503 (b)(1) as an administrative expense. Financing on a post-petition basis is not otherwise available without the Debtor granting, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 364 (c) (1), claims having priority over any and all administrative expenses of the kinds specified in Bankruptcy Code Sections 503 (b), 507(b), and 546 (c), and securing such indebtedness and obligations with the security interests in and the liens upon the property described below pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Section 364.
- 22. Under the circumstances, no other post-Petition financing exists on terms more favorable than those offered by Sovereign under the DIP Facility.
- 23. The Debtor believes that the terms of the DIP Facility are fair and reasonable, reflect the Debtor's exercise of reasonably prudent business judgment consistent with its fiduciary duty, and are supported by equivalent fair value and fair consideration. The Debtor submits that the post-petition financing under the DIP Facility has been negotiated in good faith, and the post-petition

financing to be provided has been extended in good faith as that terms in used in Bankruptcy Code § 364 (e).

- 24. Sovereign is willing to provide the DIP Facility subject to the conditions set forth herein and in the DIP Loan Documents, subject to obtaining the protections afforded pursuant to an Interim Financing Order.
- 25. The Debtor respectfully requests the immediate entry of the proposed Interim Order submitted herewith pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001 (b) and (c), granting the relief requested below.

REQUESTED RELIEF

- 26. The Debtor requests that this Court authorize the Debtor's use of cash collateral *nunc pro tunc* to the petition date and Debtor to obtain financing on the terms set forth herein pending a final hearing.
- Order, the Debtor requests this Court's express authorization and direction to borrow from Sovereign under the DIP Revolving Credit Facility, an amount, in Sovereign's sole and absolute discretion, up to \$1.3 million; including \$30,000 for a retainer for Debtor's attorneys, \$30,000 for a retainer to Brown, Moskowitz & Kallen, as Debtor's transactional counsel, and [\$25,000 for a retainer to Morris Anderson & Associates, as Debtor's restructuring advisors] and to execute and deliver such additional documents and agreements as may be reasonably required by Sovereign. Debtor requests that the terms and conditions of the DIP Loan Documents be approved and ratified, and the Debtor requests authorization and direction to comply with and perform all of the terms and conditions contained therein.

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- Revolving Loan Agreement, on the terms and subject to the limitations on availability set forth therein and to use the proceeds of the Loans as expressly set forth in the budget (attached to this Motion as Exhibit "A"). It is a condition of the DIP Revolving Loan Agreement that the Debtor deposit all payments received on Accounts into a blocked deposit account designated by and under the exclusive control of Sovereign. Further, in the event Ridgewood receives any payments of an Account or other Collateral, Debtor must hold said payments in trust for Sovereign and forwarded to Sovereign (with any necessary endorsement) by overnight delivery and/or at Sovereign's discretion, deposit them into a blocked deposit account in the name of and under the exclusive control of Sovereign. All such payments shall be applied by Sovereign first to the Pre-Petition Revolving Obligations and second to the Post-Petition Revolving Obligations under the terms of the proposed order.
- 29. The Debtor further requests that automatic stay imposed under Bankruptcy Code Section 362 (a) (4) be lifted to permit the Debtor to grant the Liens (as described below) to Sovereign, and to perform the acts required or permitted by the DIP Revolving Loan Agreement.
- 30. The use of Cash Collateral and the DIP Financing is necessary to avert an immediate liquidation of the Debtor and to preserve the Debtor's enterprise value, and as such, constitutes partial "adequate protection" within the meaning of Bankruptcy Code section 361 against a diminution in the value of Sovereign's pre-petition collateral.
- 31. As partial adequate protection for the DIP Financing and as security for the pre- and post-petition loans, Debtor proposes to Sovereign (i) valid and perfected liens and security interests in all accounts receivable, equipment, inventory, and other property of the kind and character of the collateral that secured Ridgewood's indebtedness to Sovereign prior to the filing of the involuntary

Chapter 7 petition, including any proceeds and products therefrom, that is acquired by Ridgewood after the filing date in the same priority as existed as of the filing, and (ii) valid and perfected liens and security interests in all other assets now owned or hereafter acquired by Ridgewood, including rights under the real property leases, including any proceeds and products thereof, which liens and security interests of Sovereign shall be junior only to valid and perfected senior liens and security interests that exist in favor of other creditors as of the Filing Date, if any (collectively, the "Replacement Liens").

- 32. It is further requested that in accordance with section 364 (d) of the Bankruptcy Code, all obligations under the DIP Facility be secured claims against the Debtor and its estate, *pari passu* with the pre-petition liens of Sovereign in and to the Debtor's assets with the right to priority in payment (the "Super-Priority Claims") over any and all administrative expenses of the kind specified or ordered pursuant to any provision of the Bankruptcy Code, including, but not limited to, Bankruptcy Code sections 105, 326, 328, 330, 331, 503 (b), 506 (c), 507 (a), 507 (b) and 546 (c) and that all such obligations shall at all times be senior to the rights of the Debtor, any successor trustee to the extent permitted by law, or any other creditor in the Chapter 11 case or any subsequent proceedings under the Bankruptcy Code, including, without limitation, any Chapter 7 proceedings if the Debtor's case is converted to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code. No cost or expense of administration under the Bankruptcy Code sections 105, 364 (c), 503 (b), 507 (b) or otherwise, shall be senior to, equal to, or *pari passu* with, the Super-Priority Claims of Sovereign.
- 33. Further the Debtor's estate may not assert a claim under Bankruptcy Code § 506 (c) for any costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preservation, protection or enhancement of, the Collateral, n or shall Sovereign be subject to the equitable doctrine of "marshaling" or any other similar doctrine with respect to any Collateral.

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- 34. Sovereign shall not be required to file or serve financing statements, mortgages, patent and trademark security agreements and similar instruments which are used to perfect liens and security interests in intellectual property (if any), notices of lien or similar instruments which otherwise may be required under federal or state law in any jurisdiction, or take any action, including taking possession, to validate and perfect the liens on the collateral. In the event, however, Sovereign, in its sole discretion, shall determine to file any such financing statements, mortgages, agreements, or similar instruments, or to otherwise confirm perfection of such liens, the Debtor shall be obligated to cooperate with and assist in such process, and thus it is requested that the automatic stay be further modified to the extent necessary to allow it to do so.
- The DIP Loan Documents provide that as long as any portion of the Obligations remains unpaid, or any of the DIP Loan Documents remain in effect (without prejudice to the other Events of Default), it shall constitute an Event of Default if (a) there shall be entered any order dismissing the Chapter 11 Case, or an order shall be entered by the Bankruptcy Court, or the Debtor shall file an application for an order, converting the Chapter 11 case to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, or (b) there shall be entered in the Chapter 11 Case or any subsequent Chapter 7 case any order which authorizes under any section of the Bankruptcy Code, including Bankruptcy Code sections 105 or 364(m), (i) the granting of any senior of *pari passu* lien or security interest in any of the collateral in favor of any party other than Sovereign, or (ii) the obtaining of credit or the incurring of indebtedness that is entitled to super-priority administrative status, in either case equal to the granted to Sovereign, if the Debtor seeks any of the foregoing relief; unless, in connection with any transaction cited in clauses (i) or (ii) the relief requested requires that the Obligations to Sovereign shall first be indefeasibly paid in full in cash. Otherwise, and in addition to creating an

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Event of Default, the Debtor, on behalf of its estate, expressly waives any right to request the

Court's approval of such a transaction.

36. It shall be an additional Event of Default under the DIP Facility if the proposed

§ 363 sale hearing is not concluded and a sale Order is not entered on or before July __, 2010. Upon

the occurrence of an Event of Default, without further Order of this Court, Sovereign shall be

entitled to suspend making loans and the Debtor shall be prohibited from the further use of cash

collateral.

37. If approved by this Court, the DIP Facility shall constitute valid and binding

obligations of the Debtor, enforceable against the Debtor and its successors and assigns (including

any trustee or other fiduciary hereafter appointed as a legal representative of the Debtor or with

respect to property of the estate of the Debtor) whether in this Chapter 11 case, in any subsequent

case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code or upon dismissal of any such Chapter 11 or Chapter

7 case.

38. Given the Debtor's current financial condition, Debtor requests the entry of the

proposed form of order submitted herewith and that such order be effective immediately upon entry

by the Court.

39. No previous request has been made for the relief requested by this Motion.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Court enter the proposed Order

submitted herewith on an emergent basis.

Respectfully Submitted,

WASSERMAN, JURISTA & STOLZ, P.C.

Attorneys for Debtor and Debtor in Possession

Ridgewood Corp./

Bv

LEONARD C. WALCZYK

Dated: July 1, 2010

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VERIFICATION

I, STUART WEINSTEIN, hereby certify and verify under penalty of perjury that:

- 1. I am President of Ridgewood Corporation, the Debtor in this case.
- 2. I have read the factual assertions contained in the foregoing and affirm such assertions are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information and belief; and
- 3. I am aware that if any of the allegations contained in the foregoing Application are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

STUART WEINSTEIN

DATE: July 1, 2010